

## SUMMARY OF ALABAMA LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE HUNTING OF MIGRATORY WATERFOWL

### ALL LAND IN ALABAMA POSTED BY LAW – HUNTING IS BY LANDOWNER PERMISSION ONLY. LANDOWNER OR AGENT MAY IMPOSE FURTHER RESTRICTIONS.

**NOTICE** – The material below is only a summary. Hunters should be aware that other laws and regulations may apply.

**Special Teal:** September 6-21 – 4 a day – 8 in possession:  
Special Canada Goose season: September 1-15 – 5 Canada  
Geese a day – 10 in possession. Special Snow/Blue Goose  
Season – November 1-14 ONLY in Escambia and Monroe  
Counties - 5 Snow/Blue – 10 in possession.

---

### REGULAR WATERFOWL SEASONS

#### DUCK, COOT AND MERGANSER

November 27-January 25.

GOOSE All Geese (including the SJBZ Zone) Statewide –  
September 27- October 6 and November 27-  
January 25.

---

### BAG LIMITS

DUCK 6 ducks a day and may include no more than 4  
Mallards (no more than 2 of which may be a female),  
3 Wood Ducks, 3 Mottled Ducks, 1 Black Duck, 2  
Redhead, 1 Pintail, 1 Scaup (November 27- January  
5) and 2 Scaup (January 6-25). The possession limit  
is twice the daily bag limit. CANVASBACK - NO OPEN  
SEASON.

#### MERGANSERS

5 a day, only 2 may be a Hooded Merganser. The  
possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

COOT 15 a day – 30 in possession

GOOSE The bag limit of 5 shall not include more than 2 Canada  
Geese or 2 White-Fronted Geese. The possession limit of  
5 shall include no more than 4 Canada Geese and White-  
Fronted Geese in aggregate.

## LEGAL ARMS AND AMMUNITION FOR HUNTING

It shall be lawful to use only the following weapons and  
ammunition while hunting.

Long Bows; Compound Bows; or Crossbows. Shotguns of 10  
gauge or smaller plugged with one-piece filler, incapable of  
removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does  
not exceed three shells and using T size steel shot or smaller or  
with other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved shot and sizes.

**SPECIAL NOTICE:** The use of non-toxic shot for waterfowl  
hunting in Alabama is required statewide.

**NOTICE:** The possession of lead shot while hunting waterfowl is  
illegal.

#### **Time for Hunting Duck, Coot, Merganser, and Goose:**

In the area north of Battleship Parkway, west of Alabama  
Highway 225, south of CSX Railroad tracks, and east of the west  
bank of the Mobile River: Monday through Thursday shooting  
hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon; and,  
Friday through Sunday shooting hours shall be one-half hour  
before sunrise to sunset. Remainder of the state: Shooting hours  
shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset each day.

---

### Each Hunter is Required to Have in Their Possession the Necessary State Hunting License and Signed State and Federal Duck Stamps

## HUNTING LICENSES

- **Resident** – State, \$24.00
- **Non-Resident** – Annual All Game, \$275.00; Annual Small  
Game, \$90.00; Ten-day Trip All Game, \$170.00; Ten-day  
Trip Small Game, \$55.00; Three-day Trip All Game, \$120.00;  
Three-day Trip Small Game, \$40.00.
- **Federal Duck Stamp** - \$15.00
- **State Duck Stamp** - \$6.00

**State laws and regulations that are the same  
as Federal rules shown are NOT relisted.**

## SUMMARY OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE TAKING OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

In addition to State regulations, the following Federal  
rules apply to the taking, possession, shipping, transporting,  
and storing of migratory game birds.

**“Notice** – The material below is only a summary.  
Each hunter should also consult the actual Federal  
regulations, which may be found in Title 50, Code  
of Federal Regulations, Part 20.”

**Restriction.** No person shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger  
than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fishhook,  
poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.
- With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells,  
unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of  
removal without disassembling the gun.
- From a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression  
affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface  
of the water).
- From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land  
conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or  
double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor  
vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance. “Paraplegic”  
means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of  
the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of  
or injury to the spinal cord.
- From or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the  
motor has been completely shut off and/or the sail furled, and its  
progress therefrom has ceased.
- By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks  
and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive  
days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which  
substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally  
conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- Using records or tapes of migratory bird calls or sounds, or  
electrically amplified limitations of bird calls.
- By driving, rallying, or chasing birds with any motorized  
conveyance or any sailboat to put them in the range of the  
hunters.
- By the aid of baiting (placing feed such as corn, wheat, salt,  
or other feed to constitute a lure or enticement) or on or over  
any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is  
considered to be baited for 10 days after the removal of the bait,  
and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to  
be in violation.

**CLOSED SEASON.** No person shall take migratory game birds  
during the closed season.

**SHOOTING OR HAWKING HOURS.** No person shall take  
migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting  
or hawking as prescribed.

**DAILY BAG LIMIT.** No person shall take in any one day more  
than one daily bag limit.

**FIELD POSSESSION LIMIT.** No person shall possess more than  
one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the  
field to one's car, hunting camp, home, etc.

**WANTON WASTE.** All migratory game birds killed or crippled  
shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the  
hunter in the field.

**TAGGING:** No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

1. The hunter's signature.
2. The hunter's address.
3. The total number of birds involved, by species.
4. The dates such birds were killed.

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

**POSSESSION OF LIVE BIRDS.** Wounded birds reduced to possession shall be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

**DRESSING.** No person shall completely field dress any migratory game bird (except doves and band-tailed pigeons) and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully feathered wing must remain attached to all such birds while being transported from the field to one's home or to a commercial preservation facility.

**SHIPMENT.** No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

**IMPORTATION.** For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult 50 CFR 20.61 through 20.66. One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all migratory game birds being transported between a port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required above), drawn, and the head and feet are removed. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another person.

#### **MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING AND CONSERVATION**

**STAMP.** The law requires that each waterfowl hunter 16 years of age and over must carry on his person a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, or duck stamp, signed in ink across the face.

**DUAL VIOLATION.** Violation of State migratory bird regulations is also a violation of Federal regulations.

**CAUTION:** More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on Federal regulations, contact Senior Resident Agent, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Law Enforcement, 3763 Highway 14, Millbrook, AL 36054. Telephone (334) 285-9600

# Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days will be on February 7-8, 2009. The regular waterfowl season shooting hours, bag limits, and legal arms and ammunitions apply to the special days. Individuals must follow the listed rules to participate in the scheduled youth waterfowl hunts:

- (1) Up to two (2) youth participants must be accompanied by an adult supervisor. The adult supervisor, who may not hunt, is to remain within arm's length of the youth at all times.
- (2) Youth is defined as those individuals who have not reached their sixteenth birthday.
- (3) Adult is defined as those individuals twenty-five years old or older or the parent of the youth who are in possession of all state hunting licenses and state and federal waterfowl stamps that are required to hunt waterfowl. Possession of the mandatory hunting licenses and stamps is required.
- (4) Only one firearm will be allowed per youth. Only the youth hunters will be permitted to utilize the firearm for hunting. The adult is expected to review with each youth the rules of firearm safety and hunter ethics and to ensure they are followed.

---

## HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

All licensed waterfowl hunters are required to complete a Harvest Information Program (HIP) card and exchange the card for a permit. The permit is free but must be available for inspection while hunting. Permits are available from license vendors.

---

## REPORT BANDS 1-800-327-BAND

[www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/homepage/call800.htm](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/homepage/call800.htm)

To properly manage migratory birds, biologists must know migration patterns, harvest and survival rates, and ecological processes. Reporting banded bird recoveries will help provide the needed information. All band reports are very important. Call 1-800-327-BAND (2263) or [www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/homepage/call800.htm](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBL/homepage/call800.htm) to report a recovery. Your help will greatly benefit waterfowl.

2008-2009



# ALABAMA WATERFOWL HUNTING GUIDE



Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

\*The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, national origin, or disability in its hiring or employment practices nor in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities.